

## Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EURE-00 /055 W

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O R 221812Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1618

INFO AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 11886

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, GW

SUBJECT: THE GUILLAUME TRIAL -- STATE OF PLAY

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REF: A. BONN 09265 B. DUESSELDORF 0793

1. THE TRIAL OF GUENTER AND CHRISTA GUILLAUME, WHICH OPENED JUNE 24 IN DUESSELDORF, WILL CONTINUE NEXT WEEK AND PERHAPS THE WEEK OF AUGUST 4, AND WILL THEN RECESS UNTIL EARLY OR MID-SEPTEMBER. IT IS EXPECTED TO CONCLUDE SOMETIME IN OCTOBER.

2. IT IS GENERALLY EXPECTED THAT GUILLAUME (AND PRESUMABLY HIS WIFE) WILL BE FOUND GUILTY OF HIGH TREASON AND ESPIONAGE (HOCHVERRAT AND LANDESVERRAT), WHICH CARRIES A MAXIMUM SENTENCE OF LIFE IMPRISONMENT. HOWEVER, IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT HE WILL RECEIVE THE MAXIMUM SENTENCE BECAUSE OF THE DIFFICULTY OF ESTABLISHING THAT HIS ACTIVITIES CAUSED SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE TO FRG SECURITY.

3. A DPA ITEM DATED JULY 22ND REPORTS THAT THE NEXT ISSUE OF QUICK MAGAZINE WILL CARRY A STORY ALLEGING  
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THAT WILLY BRANDT, DURING HIS VISIT TO THE USSR

JULY 2 - 9 PROMISED BREZHNEV THAT GUILLAUME WOULD BE EXCHANGED AFTER HE HAS BEEN SENTENCED. THE ITEM ADDS THAT SPD SECRETARY GENERAL BOERNER IN RESPONSE TO PRESS QUERIES LABELED THE STORY "WHICH REFERRED TO A CIA REPORT, A FALSE REPORT AND THE PRODUCT OF SENSATIONAL JOURNALISM."

4. THERE HAVE BEEN OTHER RUMORS AND PRESS SPECULATION THAT THE EAST GERMANS HAVE MADE SOUNDINGS ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF AN EXCHANGE, BUT AS FAR AS WE KNOW THERE HAVE BEEN NO SPECIFIC PROPOSALS, AND FRG OFFICIALS STATE THAT THERE WILL BE NO EXCHANGE. HOWEVER, JUDGING FROM PAST EXPERIENCE WE ASSUME THAT THE FRG WOULD BE WILLING TO CONTEMPLATE AN EXCHANGE AFTER GUILLAUME HAS BEEN FOUND GUILTY AND SENTENCED, ASSUMING THAT A REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME IS ALLOWED TO ELAPSE AFTER THE SENTENCE, AND PROVIDED THAT THE FRG RECEIVED A VALUABLE EXCHANGE IN RETURN.

5. THE EVIDENCE AGAINST GUILLAUME WHICH HAS SURFACED IN THE TRIAL HAS BEEN REPORTED ACCURATELY IN THE PRESS (ESPECIALLY FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE), MOST NOTABLY THE RADIO MESSAGES FOR "SENDER 37", THE TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF GDR SECURITY OFFICIALS FOUND IN HIS POSSESSION, HIS ADMISSION OF BEING A MEMBER OF THE VOLKSARMEE, AND THE INFORMATION WHICH HE TOLD WEST GERMAN INTERROGATORS OFF THE RECORD WHICH HE DENIES NOW BUT WHICH IS BEING USED TO DEVELOP CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE, WHICH PRESUMABLY WILL BE SUFFICIENT TO CONVICT HIM.

6. BRANDT HAS NOT PUBLICLY CONFIRMED OR DENIED - BUT HAS PRIVATELY DENIED - A JULY 14 SPIEGEL STORY TO THE EFFECT THAT BREZHNEV TOLD BRANDT THAT HE (BREZHNEV) HAD NOT KNOWN ABOUT GUILLAUME AND WAS ANGRY WITH HONECKER ABOUT IT. WE THINK IT IS REASONABLE TO ASSUME, HOWEVER, THAT THE WARM, HIGH LEVEL RECEPTION WHICH BRANDT RECEIVED IN MOSCOW WAS PERHAPS PARTIALLY INTENDED AS A SOVIET GESTURE OF ATONEMENT TO HIM.

7. ALTHOUGH THE TRIAL WILL CONTINUE TO DRAW  
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ATTENTION IN THE PRESS AND IN POLITICAL CIRCLES, IT IS NOT ANTICIPATED THAT THERE WILL BE ANY MAJOR POLITICAL FALL OUT OTHER THAN WHAT HAS ALREADY OCCURRED.  
HILLENBRAND

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PINT, PINS, GE, (GUILLAUME, GUENTHER)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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